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News Release

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Police Department Honors 25 for Outstanding Service

DURHAM, N.C. - The Durham Police Department (DPD) honored 25 individuals for above and beyond public safety service at its annual service awards ceremony on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at Durham City Hall. An audience of more than 200 was inspired by several accounts of heroism (including near fatal drownings, suicide attempts, and a train accident) and charitable service (including a handicap ramp construction and a campaign to fight infant congenital heart disease). DPD's Executive Command Staff presented each recipient a specially crafted medal or plaque that signifies his or her achievement or a group's collective success. Specific awards included three Community Service Medals; five Distinguished Service Medals; 14 Certificates of Merit; Civilian Employee of the Year; Officer of the Year; and one Police Medal. The Police Medal is the highest distinction presented to members of the general public.

Officer of the Year

Officer John Wagstaff

Civilian of the Year

David Reynolds

Police Medal

George Atkins

Distinguished Service Award

Corporal Christopher Goss
Officer Andrew Harton
Officer Garrett Rogers

Sergeant Daniel Leeder
Officer Tony Paylor

Community Service Award

Corporal Jackie Knight
Officer Bret Taylor
Officer Roger Humphrey

Certificate of Merit

Captain Walter Tate

Corporal Justin Barazandeh

Lieutenant David Anthony

Corporal Lawrence Van Dewater
Officer Jason Weiss
Officer Anthony Ramos

Investigator Edwin Ortiz
Corporal Kimberly De La Cruz
Officer Austin Acker

Sergeant Dante Ferrell

Officer Joseph Thomson
Officer Richard Cone
Officer Jacob Burns

Corporal Mark Brown

The ceremony aired live on Durham Television Network (DTN); check for a replay schedule on DTNtv.org. The awards ceremony is also available on YouTube - https://youtu.be/pJ4L9XS_6Ic.

DPD's Service Awards History

The police department implemented an annual service awards ceremony in 2010. A committee of DPD employees reviews and votes on award nominations received internally and from the public. DPD's service awards event is usually held in May as part of the department's National Police Week observance.